

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A seismometer comprising:

2 a hydrodynamically efficient shaped body containing a seismic device;

3 a propulsion unit located on said body; and

4 a control unit for directional control of said propulsion unit.

1 2. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

2 a navigation unit for directing the control unit to a desired location on the

3 ocean bottom.

1 3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said seismic device comprises a seismic sensor.

1 4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said apparatus further comprises a storage device
2 for storing seismic data sensed by said seismic sensor.

1 5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said control unit receives navigation commands
2 from a navigation system.

1 6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the control unit communicates an identifier code to
2 the navigation system enabling the navigation system to determine location of the
3 apparatus.

1 7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the navigation system sends a responsive
2 directional command to the apparatus based on the current location and the desired
3 location.

1 8. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the propulsion system acts to couple the apparatus
2 to the ocean floor.

1 9. The apparatus of claim wherein the navigation system comprises a flight control
2 system for managing a plurality of said apparatuses during navigation.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the flight control system is located on a surface
2 support vessel.

1 11. A method for deploying a seismometer comprising the steps for:
2 placing a hydrodynamically efficient shaped body containing a seismic device
3 into a fluid such as seawater above an ocean bottom;
4 energizing a propulsion unit located on said body to propel the seismometer
5 through the fluid; and
6 receiving a command in propulsion unit from a control unit for directional
7 control of said propulsion unit.

1 12. The method of claim 11 further comprising the step for:

receiving a command from a navigation system for directing the control unit
to control the propulsion unit to move a desired location on the ocean bottom.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein said seismic device comprises a seismic sensor.

14. The method of claim 3, wherein said method further comprises the step for:
storing seismic data sensed by said seismic sensor in a storage device on said
body.

15. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step for:
receiving navigation commands from a navigation system.

16. The method of claim 15 further comprising the step for:
communicating an identifier code from the control unit to the navigation
system enabling the navigation system to determine the location of the body.

5h 17. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step for:
sends a responsive directional command from the navigation system to the
control unit based on the current location of the body and the desired location.

18. The method of claim 11 further comprising the step for:
coupling the body to the ocean floor via said propulsion system.

1 19. The method of claim 11 further comprising the step for:

2 controlling the flight path for a plurality of bodies.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the flight control system is located on a surface

2 support vessel.

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